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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONIn Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 22, 1959

A/H

NIKITA S. KHRUSHCHEV

On May 21, 1959, a confidential source advised that during a recent visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), he had an audience with Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, at which time the following topics were discussed:

Khrushchev commented on the sufferings endured by the Jewish people during World War II. He told the source that in 1939 the USSR had a treaty with Germany and as a result thereof, the Soviet Union was unable to prevent Jewish people from leaving Russia and returning to their homes in Germany and Poland. Khrushchev admitted that the Soviet Union knew that Germany had embarked upon a policy of Jewish genocide but that Russia's "hands were tied."

According to Khrushchev, prior to 1939 the Soviet Union had a population including 4,000,000 Jewish people but that as a result of their return to Germany during the first part of World War II where they were slaughtered, the Jewish population in Russia today is only 2,000,000. Collateral to this statement, Khrushchev mentioned that the population of the Soviet Union is presently 200,000,000 and the census will shortly be released for publication.

Source advised that Khrushchev, when asked if Jewish people are now permitted to leave Russia, replied that consideration is currently being given to allowing anyone to leave the Soviet Union. He informed the source that he, Khrushchev, formerly lived in Rigaevka, a small town named in honor of an Englishman, and that the Jewish craftsmen in this town applied their trades so effectively that the town greatly prospered. Citing this as an example, Khrushchev reasoned that if all Jewish craftsmen left the Soviet Union, the services which they performed would be

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lost. He told the source that the Jewish people have all that they want in the Soviet Union, and remarked that they hold responsible jobs, some of them even working on atomic bombs."

Source confirmed that Khrushchev agreed with the statement that the United States and the USSR want peace but that both countries "rattle their sabers." Khrushchev stated that the solution to suppressing fear on both sides is to have the older statesmen of each nation discuss the problems on a "lower level." Source advised that Khrushchev did not further explain this term. He told the source that the reverence with which the people of their respective nations hold these leaders would certainly influence the people and thereby suppress their fears.

Khrushchev explained that he met President Dwight D. Eisenhower at Geneva in 1955 and would like to meet with him again but President Eisenhower recently stated that he could not meet with Khrushchev at this time.

Khrushchev continued that the United States Armed Forces are currently requesting a larger budget in order to increase their strength. He remarked that some people in the United States say that the USSR is weak and can be vanquished in two hours or at most three days. Khrushchev told the source that such "silly" statements must be answered by the Soviet Union. He told the source that some people in the United States "do not see other things because of cinders in their own eyes."

Source advised that while discussing the passporting procedures necessary for obtaining passports in the United States and the Soviet Union, Khrushchev stated that the Soviet Union has plenty of territory to accommodate all visitors and also to accommodate any people who may wish to stay in the Soviet Union.

Regarding the case with which passports may be obtained by Soviet citizens, Khrushchev stated that Boris Pasternak, the writer of the book, "Dr. Zhivago," was given permission to leave the USSR but refused to leave, stating that if he did leave the Soviet Union, it would be tantamount

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to death to him. Khrushchev told the source that some people in the United States have difficulty in obtaining passports, and cited Paul Robeson, the Negro American singer, as an example. He told the source that the United States must take a closer look at its own policies before criticizing other countries.

A discussion of tourism between the United States and the Soviet Union then ensued. Khrushchev admitted that Americans touring Russia today greatly exceed the number of Soviets traveling to the United States. He explained, however, that the United States is a "fisher" country but that in time the Soviet Union will catch up and then the rate of travel between the two countries will be reversed. Khrushchev remarked that the USSR wants American dollars but that the United States does not want "Russian caviar, sturgeon or crabs."

Khrushchev was asked about the secret message which Senator Robert H. Humphrey reportedly conveyed to President Nixon from him. Premier Khrushchev denied giving any message to Senator Humphrey for transmission to President Nixon. He told the source that he met Senator Humphrey in the same room at the Kremlin in which he and source were then seated, and that Senator Humphrey kept questioning him but not about Berlin, Germany. Khrushchev stated that after what seemed to him like "seven nights and six days," Senator Humphrey brought up the question of Berlin and requested that Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan be present during the discussions. Khrushchev advised that he then telephoned Mikoyan and that while waiting for the latter's arrival, Senator Humphrey had he had sandwiches and drinks.

According to the source, Khrushchev described Senator Humphrey as a "man being paid by the hour who wanted to earn overtime pay." The Premier, although he expressed his desire to again talk with Senator Humphrey, accused him of making "additions to his statements about their conversation."

In discussing Vice President Richard M. Nixon, Khrushchev stated that he did not disagree with the last two or three speeches made by Vice President Nixon, and remarked that he is looking forward to meeting the Vice President when the latter visits the Soviet Union during the summer of 1959.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 22, 1940

VICTOR S. KERSTEN

The confidential source mentioned in the letter memorandum, dated and captioned as above, is an individual who has furnished reliable information in the past.

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